Representation of Muslims in the South Arcot District Board.

* 1433 *Q.*—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that whereas the Muslim community is represented by only two members the Christian community is represented by three members (inclusive of a lady) in the District Board of South Arcot?

A.—The members referred to are two Muhammadans, two Europeans and one Indian Christian lady.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know the basis on which two Europeans have been nominated while there is only one Muhammadan nominated?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"There is already one Muhammadan elected and one Muhammadan nominated."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know the basis on which these nominations are made, i.e., why two Europeans have been nominated? Is it on the basis of population?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"It is on the basis of their interest in the district."

Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED:—"Is the hon. Minister sure that one of the two Muhammadans is a nominated member?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I am not quite certain of the fact."

Amendment of the Local Boards and Village Panchayats Acts.

* 1434 *Q.*—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the conclusions of the conference held on 12th December 1928 and the following days under his presidency on the various subjects that he placed before it regarding amendments to Local Boards and Village Panchayats Acts;

(*b*) which of them the Government have accepted; and

(*c*) whether the Government propose to introduce Bills amending Local Boards and Village Panchayats Acts, 1920, and if so, when?

A.—(*a*) The conference arrived at the following conclusions:—

(1) The Local Boards Act should be so amended as to bring village panchayats within its ambit and make them the unit of local self-government;

(2) There should be a body for a suitable area to co-ordinate the work of panchayats and to carry on the functions of panchayats where panchayats do not exist;

(3) There should be three local bodies in each district, the panchayat, the taluk board or union of panchayats (the name to be decided later on) which will be the body referred to in (2) and the district board;